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ORIG: GACarver, Jr.
UNIT: DCI/SAVA
EXT: [redacted]
DATE: 13 Jan. 1968

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000500090097-8

MESSAGE FORM

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CITE DIRECTOR

TO PRIORITY SAIGON

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PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR. HABIB (WHO NOW VISITING SAIGON) FROM MR. CARVER. OBVIOUSLY ANY STATION THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

1. CONCERN RAPIDLY MOUNTING HERE OVER WHAT WE SEE AS DISQUIETING AIR OF MALAISE AND LASSITUDE PERMEATING GVN. OPPORTUNITY FOR QUOTE NEW BROOM UNQUOTE ATMOSPHERE CAPITALIZING ON AND ~~XXXXXX~~ EXTENDING MOMENTUM INITIATED BY ELECTORAL PROCESS AND NEW GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION APPEARS ABOUT TO BE FRITTERED AWAY WHILE LEGISLATURE WRANGLES ON INTERNAL REGULATIONS AND THIEU TEMPORIZES OR PROCRASTINATES ON IMPORTANT DECISIONS. THE THANG AFFAIR IN PARTICULAR STRIKES US AS HAVING A SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE MUCH GREATER THAN ITS ~~XXXXX~~ ^{INTRINSIC} IMPORTANCE, WHICH IN ITSELF IS CONSIDERABLE.

2. THE INTERRELATED MATTERS OF PROVINCE CHIEF SELECTION

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CITE DIRECTOR

to [AND TRAINING, THE PROVINCE CHIEFS RELATIONS TO THE CORPS] COMMANDERS AND THE CONCRETE ISSUE OF THE TIMING, CONTENT AND LOCALE OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S TRAINING COURSE (I. E., THE SUBSTANCE AND IMPLICATIONS [] CONSTITUTE THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF OUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN. IN SHORT, WE ARE INCLINED TO READ THE THANG RESIGNATION ISSUE AS A TEST CASE WHOSE OUTCOME WILL INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT THE QUOTE NEW UNQUOTE GVN HAS EITHER THE INCLINATION OR THE ABILITY TO ALTER THE STATUS QUO AND GALVANIZE VIETNAMESE POLITICAL LIFE IN A MANNER CAPABLE OF ENGAGING THE SUPPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL AND RURAL POPULATION.

3. THE ABOVE CONCERNS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AND ARE VERY MUCH SHARED BY BURKE, ISHAM AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT, WHO ALSO SHARE OUR SENSE OF URGENCY. WE WANT TO AVOID SENDING THE STATION OR THE MISSION ANY UNNECESSARY OR GRATUITOUS COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS OR ADVICE BUT WE DO WANT TO GENERATE ANY WASHINGTON ACTION THAT IS NEEDED OR COULD BE HELPFUL. AS A FAVOR TO US ALL THEREFORE, WOULD YOU PLEASE

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CITE DIRECTOR

TO [REVIEW THESE MATTERS IN DETAIL WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN THE
STATION AND YOURS IN THE EMBASSY (IF INDEED YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY
DONE SO) AND BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM WITH US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AFTER YOUR RETURN.

END OF MESSAGE

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C/VNO

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WILLIAM E. COLBY
C/FE

GEORGE A. CARVER, JR.
SAVA

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